



Attorney Docket No.: 80398.P178C

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Franz, et al.

Serial No.: 09/239,640

Filed: January 29, 1999

For: A Method and Apparatus for  
Performing Spoken Language  
Translation

Art Unit: 2641

Examiner: Martin Lerner

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited  
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with  
sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

On 6/20/01  
Date of Deposit  
Cheri C. Kimberlin  
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence  
Signature Date

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced application on the merits  
it is respectfully requested that the following amendments be entered.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 45, line 9, second full  
paragraph on page 45, with the following paragraph:

Another approach to creating a language model is to use other types of  
basic probabilities. For example, syntactic analysis may be performed, and the  
basic probabilities may make reference to the probabilities of certain grammar  
rules used in the analysis. Or, the basic probabilities could be make reference to  
grammatical functions such as "subject", "verb", "object", so that a basic  
probability is formulated of the form  $P_{\text{verb}=\text{word}_i/\text{subject}=\text{word}_j \text{ object}=\text{word}_k}$ .

The confirmation/selection action performed by the user to carry out adaptation of the language model may be used regardless of the type of basic probability used. The effect of this will be that the hypothesis construction component adapts to the utterances that the user makes, and learn to favor utterances that the user is more likely to make. Then, these utterances will appear higher and higher on the ordered list of utterance hypotheses, and the speech translator becomes relatively easier to use.

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 3, first full paragraph on page 56, with the following paragraph:

The rule for consonant doubling apply to verb ending in one of the following consonants immediately preceding by a short vowel. When the rules for consonant doubling apply, the final consonant is doubled for present participle, simple past and past participle forms. If the verb is irregular, consonant doubling should regularly occur for the present participle form. Third person singular verb forms remain unaffected by this rule. Verbs that end in a short bowel plus one of the consonants listed, but do not follow the consonant doubling rule (exceptions and irregular verbs) are not tagged with this feature in the dictionary. The effect of the consonant doubling rules with examples follows:

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 12, second full paragraph on page 57, with the following paragraph:

In an embodiment, verbs that end in "y" immediately preceded by a consonant are handled by the rules as follows, but are not so limited:

3<sup>rd</sup> person singular: change final "y" to "ie" and apply default rule (add "s")

(e.g. "apply" -> "applies"; "cry" -> "cries");

simple past and past participle: change final "y" to "i" and apply default rule (add "ed") (e.g. "carry" -> "carried"; "fry" -> "fried");

present participle: apply default rule (add "ing").

### IN THE DRAWINGS

Please refer to the attached drawings and the Request To Approve Drawing Changes.

REMARKS

Consideration of the application as preliminarily amended is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: June 20, 2001

Maria McCormack Sobrino  
Maria McCormack Sobrino  
Registration No. 31,639

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026  
(408) 720-8300

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**  
**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 45, line 9, second full paragraph on page 45, with the following paragraph:

Another approach to creating a language model is to use other types of basic probabilities. For example, syntactic analysis may be performed, and the basic probabilities may make reference to the probabilities of certain grammar rules used in the analysis. Or, the basic probabilities could be make reference to grammatical functions such as "subject", "verb", "object", so that a basic probability is formulated of the form  $P([verb=word_i / subject=word_j, object=word_k])$ . The confirmation/selection action performed by the user to carry out adaptation of the language model may be used regardless of the type of basic probability used. The effect of this will be that the hypothesis construction component adapts to the utterances that the user makes, and learn to favor utterances that the user is more likely to make. Then, these utterances will appear higher and higher on the ordered list of utterance hypotheses, and the speech translator becomes relatively easier to use.

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 3, second full paragraph on page 56, with the following paragraph:

The rule for consonant doubling apply to verb ending in one of the following consonants immediately preceding by a short vowel. When the rules for consonant doubling apply, the final consonant is doubled for present participle, simple past and past participle forms. If the verb is irregular, consonant doubling should regularly occur for the present participle form. Third person singular verb forms remain unaffected by this rule. Verbs that end in a

short bowel plus one of the consonants listed, but do not follow the consonant doubling rule (exceptions and irregular verbs) are not [be] tagged with this feature in the dictionary. The effect of the consonant doubling rules with examples follows:

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 12, second full paragraph on page 57, with the following paragraph:

In an embodiment, verbs that end in "y" immediately preceded by a consonant are handled by the rules as follows, but are not so limited:

3<sup>rd</sup> person singular: change final "y" to ["